

The following paper is an overview of several partnership programs
between
South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC)
&
South Dakotans for the Arts (SoDA) / SD Alliance for Arts Education.

It contains information about
the SD Alliance for Arts Education Advisory Council,
which advises both SDAC and SoDA on education issues.

It also includes general information about
Arts for Every Child,
Arts Education Enhancement Grants,
the Arts Education Institute,
and several other collaborative programs.

Additional specific information about these programs
is contained in the tabbed section of this binder
immediately following the TAB INDEX.

South Dakota Alliance for Arts Education
Advisory Council Summary Report: SDAC/SoDA Arts for Every Child Initiative
September, 2008

We believe the arts are basic to human expression and thereby basic to education.

- Arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning.
- Arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk.
- The arts are an intrinsic part of the well being of our communities.

Mission: The South Dakota Alliance for Arts Education provides leadership for arts education through advocacy, communication and training.

2007-2009 Action Strategies:

- Advocate and promote the arts as essential to education and lifelong learning.
- Provide training in arts education.
- Heighten awareness of the benefits of arts education.
- Communicate with other education organizations and state government.
- Utilize technology to enhance arts education.

Working in partnership:

- The legal partnership of South Dakotans for the Arts, the SD Alliance for Arts Education and the SD Community Arts network combines advocacy, service, community development, and life-long learning through the arts.
- SD Alliance for Arts Education (**SDAAE**) is a member of the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network (**KCAAEN**), Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington DC.
- South Dakotans for the Arts is a member of Americans for the Arts and its Statewide Arts Advocacy Network.
- South Dakota Arts Council support is provided with funds from the State of South Dakota, through the Department of Tourism and State Development, and the National Endowment for the Arts.
- The SDAAE Advisory Council serves as the advisory council for arts education for South Dakotans for the Arts and the South Dakota Arts Council.
- The Arts for Every Child Initiative is a partnership project of South Dakotans for the Arts/SD Alliance for Arts Education and the South Dakota Arts Council.

The SDAAE Advisory Council serves as the advisory council for arts education for South Dakotans for the Arts (SODA) and the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC). The Council has 15 members, a statewide representation of educators and teaching artists from all grade levels, Pre-Kindergarten through University, and all arts disciplines, South Dakota Arts Council staff and the official arts liaison from the Department of Education. The Advisory Council assists SDAC and SoDA in their development of policy and programs for implementation at the state, district, school or classroom level.

- professional development for teachers, administrators and teaching artists
- fine arts standards and curriculum development
- enhancement of existing fine arts instruction
- integration of fine arts throughout curriculum
- public awareness and advocacy for arts education

Arts for Every Child is a special initiative directed toward equal access to the arts as a part of the complete education of every child in South Dakota. Many South Dakota children receive excellent arts instruction, have opportunities to attend and participate in a variety of arts experiences, and are guided through multiple approaches to learning, including the arts. Students in rural and poorer areas of the state attend schools that are challenged to find the resources and qualified teachers to provide fine arts instruction. Others look to integrate the arts as a key element of school improvement, but need training, technical assistance, information and resources. The South Dakota Arts Council and South Dakotans for the Arts work in partnership to raise the standards higher and to extend the reach of arts in education through schools across the state, to improve the prospects of success for every child.

Review of work to date: The Arts for Every Child initiative was proposed to the SDAAE Advisory Council South Dakota Arts Council and South Dakotans for the Arts/SD Alliance for Arts Education in June, 2005 for their review and comment. This began the process cycle of its design, implementation, evaluation and re-design, evolving policies and programs through the current fiscal year (FY2009). Because this initiative continues, and informs the long and short range plans of both agencies, the SDAAE council will review and revise its programs and policies in its October 2008 meeting. The following background will be the basis of our discussions and planning.

Objective: Promote arts in education Pre-K – 12:

1. Arts Education Enhancement Grants are a project of the Arts for Every Child Initiative of the South Dakota Arts Council, South Dakotans for the Arts/ SD Alliance for Arts Education. These grants are funding long-term comprehensive arts curriculum development in elementary schools in Arlington, Spearfish and Watertown. These pilot schools are developing models for arts integration with other core academic subjects, and each has taken a different approach. Their choice of curricular path arose from their own planning sessions, with no suggestions to that effect from either SDAC or SDAAE, but the different subject areas selected offer a valuable sampling for our evaluation. After receiving a planning grant and the first of five years of project grants, the schools are embarking on their second year of their Arts Education Enhancement programs:

Arlington School is concentrating its arts enhancement on mathematics. A K-12 school, Arlington was recognized in the 2006-07 special education review as an inclusion school. “The theory that all children learn well when they are surrounded by a variety of educational opportunities is widely accepted among staff, students and parents in the Arlington District,” according to Principal Rhonda Gross. “Our belief that all students are to be encouraged and allowed the opportunities to succeed to their greatest potential coincides precisely with this grant. With this unique opportunity, we will have the time and direction to properly train our Arlington educators and students in using the South Dakota fine arts standards effectively to increase our students’ math abilities as well as allow our students opportunities to embrace the arts.” Team teaching, peer monitoring and implementing fine arts activities across the curriculum and throughout the community involve connecting visual arts, music and math. Secondary students

will be included as they assist in designing, implementing and evaluating the elementary school projects.

Spearfish West Elementary is working on literacy development in kindergarten through second grade through music, drama and dance. Music teacher and team leader Kathy Ewing puts it this way, “The time has come to make known the natural links between classroom musical activity and important instructional goals in early literacy development. Children learn as they read, write, comprehend and express oral language within the highly active and engaging learning contexts music making provides. Teachers’ plates are very full...Our goals are not to create more work, but rather to enhance some wonderful things that are already happening in classrooms. We all desire to be the best teachers possible, with incredible results. It is so rewarding to see that smile of ‘I get it!!!’ on a child’s face. Fine arts teachers all over know how well their subjects stimulate learning in children, but to pair this with other core classes is terrific. Literacy and the arts go hand in hand with each other. Not only does this help create a much more meaningful atmosphere for our learners, but it also helps schools and communities realize the importance of fine arts.”

Watertown’s Lincoln and Roosevelt Elementary Schools are teaming visual arts and 6th Grade Social Studies in their exploration of Ancient Civilizations. In Watertown schools the sixth grade social studies and arts curriculums have been taught independently of each other and by separate teachers. The Arts Education Enhancement Grant provides the resources and incentive for the art and social studies educators to partner up and create a curriculum combining the best of both subjects. “Our vision is to produce connections that help students achieve a richer understanding of ancient cultures, and to create artwork with expression that reflects their understanding of the culture,” writes Principal Susan Patrick. The social studies curriculum still follows the school selected textbook, and the art curriculum selects seven or eight projects that follow the textbook’s list of ancient cultures. Visual art teachers team up with Social Studies teachers to bring ancient cultures to life for their sixth grade students.

On site visits by a team from SDAC and SDAAE are scheduled this fall (2008) and spring (2009). Technical assistance, mentoring and professional development are offered along with the financial support of \$5,000 per year provided by the Arts Education Enhancement Grant funds. Spring on-site visits will include evaluation of the programs to date and planning for the final three years of implementation. The goal of the program is to create a sustainable program for a curriculum including enhanced arts education and to provide workable models for other South Dakota elementary schools.

2. Scholarships, Competitions and Awards retain their importance as a means of promoting excellence in arts education and student performance at the secondary level. Our long standing support of the National High School Congressional Art Awards, National Symphony Orchestra Summer Institute, Oscar Howe Summer Art Institute scholarships, and the more recent Poetry Out Loud Competitions continue to produce very strong showings by South Dakota’s young artists. Members of the SDAAE Advisory Council represent statewide theater, visual arts and music educators associations, and report on growing participation and quality in their respective

state honors competitions. Of interest to the council is the rapid growth (tripled in the past three years) of one-act theater competition. This development is counter-intuitive given the decline in the number of theater education professionals in the state.

3. Artists Residencies based on SDAC Artists *in Schools and Communities* and *Touring Arts* rosters provide important partnerships in arts education outside the school system. ArtsCorr and AfterSchool Summer Arts Program (ASAP) continue as per planning with the SD Department of Corrections (Juvenile) and SD Child Care Services. ASAP is not scheduled for FY2009, but will resume in 2010, contingent on Dept. of Social Services budget. Evaluations of both programs have been excellent.

4. 21st Century Skills, Arts Education Partnership, Kennedy Center AAE and other catalysts for transformation of our educational systems provide not only arguments for innovation, but incentives reflecting education as preparation for citizenship and a qualified workforce. South Dakota was one of the first states to form a joint partnership with The Partnership for 21st Century Skills, the nation's leading advocacy organization focused on infusing 21st century skills into education. The partnership is focused on bringing 21st century teaching and learning skills to every student in the state. SDAC Assistant Director Michael Pangburn and SoDA/SDAAAE Executive Director Pat Boyd serve on South Dakota's P21 Advisory Council, representing arts education. The 20-member council consists of business leaders, lawmakers and representatives from K-12 and higher education. The group serves an advisory role as South Dakota seeks to ensure that its students are prepared for life in the 21st century. SDAAE Chair Lynn Verschoor and Pat Boyd attend the annual KCAAEN Leadership Conference in Washington DC, presenting a full report, resources and recommendations to the Advisory Council and board of SDAC and SoDA. The 2008 conference was primarily focused on 21st Century Skills and research findings of the Arts Education Partners in the area of imagination and innovation and learning through the arts.

Objective: Provide training for teachers in arts education:

The critical need for professional development and training in arts education for classroom teachers, arts specialists, administrators and teaching artists has made this a central goal of South Dakota's partners in arts education for 25 years. There has been a steady decline in teacher preparation in arts methods at the university level. Core curricula for classroom teachers have crowded out the arts even as electives and very few art majors graduate from our universities with the intention of teaching or the training to teach.

Budget constraints have severely limited teachers' time and financial resources in seeking continuing education. It is no longer the norm for school districts to pay for professional development; it has become more common for teachers to pay out of pocket, and some must pay for their substitute if a workshop occurs during the school week. Rising costs of everything from travel to art materials (which are all too often supplemented by the teacher herself) help to make the decision to attend a workshop or conference very difficult if not impossible without scholarships and subsidies.

South Dakota's average teacher salary is among the lowest in the nation, and it is difficult to attract and retain teachers, particularly arts specialists. This is especially true in our many rural school districts. Much of our teaching force is at or near retirement age. A similar aging is occurring on the state's roster of teaching artists.

While professional development in arts education for teachers and teaching artists is only a part of addressing these issues, we believe it to be a crucial part of the solution. The SDAAE council also knows that all of these issues must be a part of the design of our professional development offerings. The number of participating teachers at the annual **Arts Education Institute (AEI)** has been diminishing, from over 100 ten years ago to fewer than 50 in 2008. Yet the teachers' evaluations continue to rate AEI as excellent, and the number of teachers who *expect* to register each year remains high. Something gets in their way.

After reviewing participant surveys and evaluations, the SDAAE council concluded in 2005 that it is not the quality of the experience, instructors, or topics that are deficient, but the delivery system. They set about redesigning the delivery of AEI for 2006, and we have had three alternative formats in the last years. All were successful in many ways, and provided insights and innovation, experiments with technology and learning models, but attendance has not risen.

In July 2008, however, AEI began to look healthy again, despite what looks like a small number of participants. A spring survey of AEI participants from recent years indicated several strong preferences that had not emerged in previous inquiries. The greatest number of respondents preferred the Institute to be held in July, when most felt they could take their "vacation." They also much preferred changing the format to integrate the content standards/curriculum development elements into the hands on arts workshops rather than keep the two separate, as we had historically offered them. This would allow more time to fully explore new techniques and ideas for teaching and learning through the arts.

Given these two mandates, the council recommended offering AEI in July 2008, and trying on the newly integrated workshops, despite a very tight turnaround in time (May to July). Three workshops were offered, each for a full graduate credit, and participants could register and receive scholarships for two workshops. All three workshops filled quickly, and the evaluations were excellent. The most frequent complaint was that the workshops (the 16 hours required for credit) were too short. Many car-pooled or traveled with their families, actually taking a vacation together. All departed with skills and ideas they planned to use in their classrooms, a primary objective of the Institute.

AEI has been set for the same dates and place in 2009, and we anticipate a return to our previous level of eight workshops offered and a substantial increase in registration. Full information, including scholarships – always available to active South Dakota teachers through the SDAC/SoDA Arts Education Initiative – and registration forms will be sent to teachers statewide in December. The Council will decide at the October 2008 meeting whether to offer some of the AEI workshops online or via the Dakota Digital Network. A trial version of this was offered in 2007, with mixed results and some serious technical problems, but it remains a less expensive alternative for teachers who cannot travel to the Institute and is worthy of consideration.

**South Dakota Alliance for Arts Education
Advisory Board
2008-2009**

Lynn Verschoor*, Chair
Ex. Director SD Art Museum
Medary Ave & Harvey Dunn St.
Brookings, SD 57007
(605) 688-4279
lynn.verschoor@sdstate.edu

Dr. Fatih Benzer
Art Professor
SDSU
Box 2802, Grove Hall 103
Brookings, SD 57007
(605) 688-4657
Faith.benzer@sdstate.edu

Holly Downing
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Black Hills State University
1200 University Unit 9003
Spearfish, SD 57799
(605) 642-6056w/722-1438h
HollyDowning@bhsu.edu

Deanna Gilkerson
Professor Early Childhood Educ.
South Dakota State University
2218A Pugsley Center
Brookings, SD 57007
(605) 688-5708w
Deanna.gilkerson@sdstate.edu

Jim Knutson
Black Hills State University
1200 University Street
Spearfish, SD 57783
(605) 642-6104
(605) 642-6214 fax
JamesKnutson@bhsu.edu

Christine Leichtnam
Music Educator, Elementary
4330 W. Main St. #16C
Rapid City, SD 57702
(605) 394-1854/342-8598
cleicht@enetis.net

Jim “Doc” Miller
Madison HS Theatre
927 N. Lincoln
Madison, SD 57042
(605) 256-2653
james.miller@k12.sd.us

John V. Nelson
Visual Arts, Elementary
910 8th Street
Brookings, SD 57006
(605) 697-5487
artman_20@hotmail.com

Barb Newman
Music Educator, Pierre
500 N. Huron
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 224-6860
newmanrb@pie.midco.net

Michael Pangburn
Asst. Director, SDAC
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-3131
Michael.pangburn@state.sd.us

Cheryl Peterson-Halsey
Visual Artist, ArtsCorr,
SDAC AIS
41040 Hwy 52
Springfield, SD 57062
(605) 369-2861
cherhalsey@hotmail.com

Tom Roberts
Theatre, ArtsCorr, SDAC AIS, Touring
Arts
3105 S. Trenton Circle
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
(605) 371-4456
robertst@sio.midco.net

Stephanie Weideman
Department of Education
Director of OCTA
700 Governors Dr
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-2533
Stephanie.Weideman@state.sd.us

Markie Scholz
Dragons Are Too Seldom Puppet
Productions
1920 Christensen Dr.
Spearfish, SD 57783
(605) 642-4805
mscholz@blackhills.com
www.dragonsaretooseldom.com

Kathleen West*
Retired Elementary Principal
1701 Capitol
Yankton, SD 57078
(605) 665-7830
katwest@iw.net

Staff:
Pat Boyd, Executive Director
Shari Kosel, Program Director
Sue Stone-Douglas, Member Services

(605) 722-1467
(605) 722-1473 fax
soda@rushmore.com

*Denotes SoDA/SDAAE/CAN Board
Member